## SELECTIONS

FROM THE

# VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

## NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.

Received up to 1st November, 1879.

### POLITICAL.

Afghan politics.

Afghan politics.

Afghan politics.

Afghan politics.

It will not be wise, says the writer, to send another Envoy to Kabul and to withdraw our troops after punishing the mutineers. The withdrawal will be considered as a sign of weakness by the tribes of Central Asia, and will leave our relations with Afghanistan in the unsatisfactory state in which they have been since 1840. Moreover, the life of our Envoy at Kabul will always be in danger, as has been proved by past experience. Our first Envoy was protected by a large number of troops, but still he was killed. In these circumstances the Government should permanently occupy Afghanistan, and establish a cheap and self-supporting administration in order that it may not be a burden upon the Indian exchequer.

The Kavi Vachan Sudha of the 27th October strongly conthe King of Burmah.

demns the King of Burmah for the hostility exhibited by him against the Government of India, warns him against picking a quarrel with the Government, and states that if he does not apologise,

Circulation, 275 copies.

Circulation,

330 copies.

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it will be obliged to send an expedition to Burmah as soon as the Kabul difficulty is settled.

Circulation, 400 copies.

The Lawrence Gazette of the 21st October (received on the 27th idem) states that although the The Amir Yakub Khan, Amir Yakub Khan ostensibly issued orders to the Afghan officers of Kandahar and Jallalabad to obey the British officers, voluntarily joined the British camp, and professes his innocence in the massacre of the Kabul Embassy; his conduct has been such as is calculated to raise doubts in our minds about his innocence. On his arrival in the British camp at Kushi, he advised Sir Frederick Roberts not to advance rapidly towards Kabul, and stated that the mutineers might voluntarily surrender themselves in the course of His object probably was to delay the advance of our troops until snow should begin to fall and impede their progress. When Sir Frederick Roberts entered the Bala Hissar, and held a darbar there, Yakub Khan apologised for his absence on the ground of illness. He feigned illness, probably because being privy to the guilt of the Mustofi Vazir, Yahiya Khan and Zakaria Khan, he had not the courage to attend the He has offered to resign the Amirship, probably because he does not approve of the measures which Sir Frederick Roberts has adopted for the restoration of peace in the country. It appears from the Pioneer that some of the confidential friends of the Amir, as, for instance, Kushdil Khan, who formerly came as a messenger from the Amir to Major Cavagnariat Shutargardan, Sardar Naik Muhammad Khan, &c., commanded the mutineers at the battle of Charasiab. We doubt the innocence of the Amir from the time of the massacre of our Embassy. A Simla telegram of the 16th October, published in the Bombay Gazette, states that it is rumoured at Simla that some of the Amir's officers have been convicted of complicity in the outrage on our Embassy, and that Sir Frederick Roberts has requested permission from the Government of India to hang some of them, and to place the Amir under surveillance. If the Amir's officers have been really convicted, he himself connot be considered innocent. They should be sentenced to death, and he expelled from Afghanistan. An English statesman protests against the annexation of Afghanistan, on the ground that it will make the Russians our immediate neighbours; we concur with him in this view. In our opinion the Government should put a stop to the rule of the Barakzai dynasty at Kabul, and restore the late Sadozai royal family, which lives at Ludhiana at present, to the throne.

The Panjábi Akhbár of the 25th October states that the condition of the Khan of Khelat has

Circulation, 350 copies.

The Khan of Khelat. been lately greatly improved. Formerly Indian merchants were robbed in his territories, and he was frequently required by the Government of India to pay damages. He was constantly harassed by his subordinate sardars. But since he has placed himself under the protection of the Government of India, all his troubles are over. Since the establishment of the British Embassy in his territories, he has been always praised by Major Sandeman for his loyalty. During the late two expeditions to Kabul, he greatly assisted the British officers in obtaining supplies and carriage, placed the resources of his State at the disposal of the Government, and preserved peace on his frontier. He has rendered the same assistance to us which Roumania did to Russia during the late Russo-Turkish war. It appears from the last week's telegrams that he expressed great joy on hearing of the occupation of the Bala Hissar by the British troops and fired a royal salute. The Government of India should bestow upon him a portion of the province of Kandahar, situated near his own territories, in recognition of his loyal services. The sanud of the jagir should be han led over to him at a public darbar, which may be held at Kabul after the re-establishment of peace and order in Afghanistan, to distribute rewards among the friendly Afghan sardars.

The Rahbar-i-Rind of the 27th October, in regard to
The resignation of the Yakub Khan's resignation of the
Amir Yakub Khan.

Amirship, remarks that the public is

Circulation, 475 copies. surprised at his resignation. No king would ever abdicate the throne without some great cause. It is to be regretted that neither the official news nor the letters of the correspondents of Anglo-Indian newspapers throw any light on this point. Some persons suspect that we may have done something with which the Amir has been dissatisfied. If the Government is not well disposed towards him, their opinion is not entitled to much weight. But if the Government sympathises with him and does not doubt his loyalty, it should inquire what has induced him to abdicate.

The explosion of gun. powder at the Bala Hissar, remarks powder at Bala Hissar. powder at the effect that such an incident was likely to occur was prevalent at Lahore long before the arrival of British troops at Kabul. But it is to be deeply regretted that our officers at Kabul could not obtain timely information about the mine which the mutineers dug and loaded at the time of their abandoning the Bala Hissar. If our able and distinguished General, Sir Frederick Roberts, had taken the trouble to inquire on his arrival at Kabul if any mine had been secretly laid by the mutineers, he would have become aware of its existence. This explosion, like the massacre of our Embassy, reflects great discredit upon our knowledge and experience of Afghanistan.

Circulation, 408 copies. The Anjuman-i-Panjáb of the 24th October states that the The resignation of the rumour about the resignation of the Amir of Kabul.

Amirship by Yakub Khan has taken the public by surprise. They are unable to realise what has induced him to abdicate the throne, but we approve of his action. He tried his best to preserve the kingdom of his ancestors, and entered into a friendly alliance with the British power, in order that he might be able to civilise the people and establish peace and order in the country with its assistance. But the cruel fates wished it otherwise, and the lawless Afghans proved true to their traditions. Yakub Khan

showed none of the bravery and courage for which he was formerly famous, when the late outrage on our Embassy was committed. He kept aloof from the scene of action as a disinterested spectator. We have repeatedly stated that his long imprisonment has affected his intellectual powers, and that he is unfit to rule. At last he has voluntarily resigned the sceptre. He has probably become disgusted with his evil destiny. He rendered great aid to his father against his rivals, but he requited his services by putting him in imprisonment. When the death of his father called him to the throne at the late crisis, he conciliated the British power and placed himself under its protection. But the wicked mutineers cruelly murdered our embassy, and fixed an indelible stain on his forehead. When he saw that, on the one hand, he was called an unbeliever by his people, and, on the other, he could not look the Government of India in the face owing to shame, he considered it wise to resign the Amirship.

The same paper refers to the chief provisions of the proclamation issued at Kabul by Major-The proclamation issued at Kabul by Major-General General Sir Frederick Roberts, such as Sir Frederick Roberts. the demolition of such buildings as interfere with the proper military occupation of the Bala Hissar, the levy of a heavy fine from the people, the introduction of martial law within five miles of the city gates, and the offer of rewards for the surrender of rebels, and remarks: To our thinking these orders are very appropriate. They will impress the Afghans with an idea of the power of the English Government, and will also be a warning to the turbulent hill tribes. Only brute-force can keep the Afghans in When any suspected mutineer or rebel is seized, an inquiry should be made into his guilt. If he is found guilty he should be imprisoned and sent to some jail in India. pains should be spared to find those sardars who instigated the outrage on our Embassy. The late Vazir of Kabul and Yahiya Khan should not be released until they clear themselves from

the suspicions that rest upon them. In our opinion the attack was the result of a conspiracy and not a sudden outbreak of fanaticism on the part of the mutinous regiments. An inquiry into the circumstances of the attack may reveal the truth. The officers of the mutinous regiments, who took part in the attack, should be hanged in the Bala Hissar.

The Jaipur Gazette of the 25th October, in the course of an article on Afghan politics, states:

"We are no advocate for annexation, for, it is our firm belief, if we annex Afghanistan, we shall have not only nothing but 'rocks and ruffians, stones and savages,' but a constant heavy drain on our finances and incessant troubles and botherations. Nor do we think it consistent with the dignity of the British Lion to withdraw from the country, after giving a good lesson to the treacherous people, without doing something to check the progress of the Russian Bear. The only course left is to stick to the old policy of keeping Afghanistan under our political supervision, and make sufficient arrangements for the protection of British life and British interests. We would not advise the location of a British Embassy at such an inaccessible place as Kabul. Let the head quarters of our Envoy be at Kandahar or Jallalabad, or some such place, and, as the cold season is now at hand, it would be better for us to remove the capital from Kabul, for what precaution soever we may take, the difficulty of transport and provisions will seriously affect the location of our troops at that place."

#### NATIVE STATES.

Circulation, 100 copies. A correspondent of the Nayyari Azam of the 27th October states: We have heard from different sources that the inhabitants of Kash-Kashmir.

The famine administration of the Maharaja of sources that the inhabitants of Kash-Kashmir.

mir have long been suffering severely from famine. The relief measures adopted by the Maharaja have not succeeded in diminishing the prevailing distress.

The hard-hearted Kashmir officials, far from sympathising with the people, oppress them in a variety of ways. One officer distributes grain mixed with dust among the poor. Another sinks vessels filled with famine stricken persons in the lake. Another oppresses the Musalmans through religious prejudice. The Maharaja's officers are not able and honest men. Self interest or religious prejudice is their guiding principle. If all these oppressions have been committed at the instigation of some high officer, the State of Kashmir cannot last long. The writer hopes that the Government of India will espouse the cause of the poor inhabitants of Kashmir, specially the Musalmans, and make full inquiries about the alleged misconduct of the officials.

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The prevalence of brib-

ery and corruption among the Government servants.

A correspondent of the Rahbar-i-Hind of the 27th Octo- Circulation,

ber ascribes the prevalence of bribery and corruption among the native public servants to the following causes :-

First.—That dishonest persons are generally admitted into the public service through the carelessness of officers. officer should admit any man into the public service without satisfying himself that he belongs to a respectable class of the community, and that his conduct is good.

Secondly.—That the pay of the native subordinates is very small, which hardly suffices for their necessary expenses. It their pay were increased, which can be easily done without involving additional cost by curtailing the pay of the European officers, the prevalence of bribery would be checked to a large extent.

Thirdly.—That European officers are not accustomed to make secret inquiries about the conduct of their subordinates, and have therefore no means of becoming acquainted with their mal-practises. The Panjab Government should appoint one are two secret and trustworthy spies, who should visit every district in the province, and send a confidential report

475 copies.

every month about the conduct of the native subordinates. Some former kings were accustomed to employ such spies for this purpose.

The editor concurs with his correspondent in ascribing the prevalence of bribery to the above three causes, specially to the third cause, and urges that the European officers should strictly watch the conduct of their subordinates.

Circulation, 250 copies. The Dabir-i-Hind, Allahabad, of the 1st November, in regard to the proposed introduction of compulsory vaccination, remarks that vaccination is undoubtedly useful, but that compulsion is objectionable, on the following grounds:—

- (1). That it is opposed to the toleration policy of the Government. There are some persons who do not approve of vaccination. It will be an interference with their liberty to compel them to vaccinate their children against their will. Only that remedy is the best for a person which he himself likes. It will be derogatory to the dignity of the respectable classes to present their children for vaccination before vaccinators, who generally belong to the lower classes, and to obtain certificates from them. Moreover, as the Hindus consider Sitala as the presiding goddess of small-pox, and worship her as such, they will look upon compulsory vaccination as an interference on the part of the Government with their religious customs.
- (2). When the Government is so anxious to save the lives of children, that it has deemed it expedient to render vaccination compulsory, why does it not try to remove the differences of caste and religion by force, owing to which their lives are always in jeopardy? Does the Government value the lives of children more than those of grown up men?
- (3). When the dancing-girls and prostitutes spread venereal diseases, and are a principal cause of the ruin of the community, why does not the Government prevent women from becoming prostitutes?



A correspondent of the same paper praises the editor for his article about the dismissal of some kanungos in the Allahabad district (see page 813 of the Selections

trict (see page 813 of the Selections for the week ending the 18th October, 1879), and states that Mr. E. C. Buck, the Director of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, in the North-Western Provinces and Ondh, has declared Lala Suraj Mal, the kanungo of Phulpur, Allahabad, unfit for his appointment, and has recommended him for dismissal. He has been a kanungo for the last fourteen years. Last year he was exempted from the prescribed examination, and received no instructions about his appearing at the examination this year. He was suddenly required to appear at the last examination and failed to pass it; and was therefore dismissed from the service. It is to be regretted that European officers do not act in accordance with the

Circulation, 250 copies.

The Rafáh-i-A'm, Sialkot, of the 29th October, publishes

The publication of daily
lists of cases to be heard
by courts.

an article, in the form of a dialogue
between two persons, in continuation of
the one published by the KhairKhwah-

rules prescribed by Government. If he is really incompe-

tent, his post should be bestowed upon one of his relatives

who is fit for it.

i-Punjáh (see page 837 of the Selections for the week ending the 25th October, 1879), in which the writer complains that, at some places in the Panjab, lists of cases to be heard during the day are not stuck up at the courts' doors, which is a source of great inconvenience to the suitors. As the suitors do not know in what order their cases will be taken up by the court, they feel obliged to be always present at the court, and refrain even from satisfying the calls of nature. The sarishtadar of every court should see that a daily list of cases to be heard is stuck up at the door every day by the person whose duty it is to do so, and the presiding officer should also exercise a check in this matter.

Circulation, 620 copies.

Circulation, 250 copies. The Berar Samachar of the 26th October states that the The Small Cause Court, Small Cause Court of Khamgaun, Be-Khamgaun, Berar, will probably be closed for some time until the arrival of a new judge. It is to be regretted that the transfers of officers are generally made in such a way that the court has to be temporarily closed several times during the year.

Circulation, 330 copies.

The Mirat-ul-Hind, Lucknow, for October, states that The appointment of section 6 of the Bengal Civil Courts Munsifs in Oudh. Act provides that munsifs in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor subject to such rules as His Honor may make about their appointment. A similar provision has also been made in section 12 of the Oudh Land Revenue Act about the appointment of tahsildars in Oudh. This is a good provision. When any rules have been once framed by a local Government, they exercise a check over its liberty to a large extent, inasmuch as appointments have generally to be made only in accordance with them. But as no provision, like the one above referred to, has been made in the Oudh Courts Act, no rules have been framed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and the Chief Commissioner of Oudh for the appointment of munsifs in Oudh. Great evil has accrued and will accrue from the want of such rules. We have heard from a reliable source that many persons who have been appointed munsifs under the new judicial scheme have passed no examination in law. Moreover, some clerks and peshkars who had passed the extra assistant commissioners' examination have been suddenly promoted to the office of munsif. A munsif requires a greater acquaintance with law than the standard fixed for the candidates for the extra assistant com-Moreover, a judicial officer remissioners' examination. quires a different education and training, from that of an exe-We hope that the local Government will soon cutive officer. make some rules about the appointment of munsifs. To our

thinking the same rules which have long worked so satisfactorily in the North-Western Provinces may be introduced in Oudh, with such changes and alterations as may be deemed expedient.

The Jaipur Gazette of the 25th October ascribes the prevalence of fever in the North-West-The prevalence of feern Provinces to the obstruction of ver in the North-Western - Provinces. natural drainage caused by the construction of railroads and canals, and the subsequent humidity of the sub-soil.

The Suhail-i-Hind, Meerut, of the 28th October, states that Circulation, although the people have long been The dismissal of some suffering from high prices, the Govchaprasis of the judicial department. ernment has resolved to reduce the number of chaprasis at present employed in the judicial department. It is very unwise to dismiss any man at a time of such distress. Moreover, the dismissal of a few chaprasis will not effect any large saving of public expenditure. However, if the Government has determined to retrench public expenditure in this way, it would be better to reduce the pay of all the chaprasis than to dismiss some of them.

EDUCATION.

A correspondent of the Mirat-ul-Hind for October refers to the article published in a late num-The middle class examination held in the Northber of that paper about the middle Western Provinces and Oudh every year. class examination (vide the Selections for the week ending the 27th September, 1879, page 754, and remarks that it is difficult to realise what good the authors of the scheme expect from it. When the two important provisions, viz., that no student will be promoted from the third to the second class without passing this examination, and that no man who has not passed this examination will be eligible for the public service, have not been enforced, there seems to be no use in retaining the examination.

200 copies.

Circulation, 330 copies.

Government has often issued circular orders to the effect that only those men who have passed such and such an examination should be admitted to the public service, but those orders are not observed by the subordinate officers, and only the friends and relatives of those men who are already in the public service are generally admitted, whether they are competent or incompetent, which is a great discouragement to the students. The students who appear at the middle class examinations are generally young boys who require a great deal of time to learn how to write answers to questions, how to arrange answers, &c., but still they have to obtain at least 40 per cent. of the maximum marks in each subject in order to pass the examination, while the candidates at the University examinations have to obtain only 25 per cent. in some subjects and 33 per cent. in others. The names of the examiners of the middle class are not published. Looking at the large number of candidates, it appears doubtful whether the examiners are generally able to examine their answers with sufficient care and attention, and to do justice The merits of the school masters and the students to them. are judged only by the results of the examination, and therefore they are naturally anxious to pass it by fair or unfair means.

Circulation, 150 copies. The abolition of some Anglo-vernacular schools vernacular schools, which were situated in the Allahabad district, have been lately abolished, although the Government had not to contribute a single farthing for their support. The children of the inhabitants of those villages in which these schools were situated have now been left without any means of obtaining education.

POST-OFFICE.

Circulation, 450 copies. A correspondent of the Nir-ul-Anwar, Cawnpore, of the The quarter-anna post 1st November, complains that the cards.

postal authorities charge an additional half-anna on a post card if both the address and the sender's

name are written on its face, which presses severely upon the poor. It is an old native custom that both the address and the sender's name are written on the envelopes. If it is against the rule to write the sender's name on the face of a post-card, the post-master general should adopt measures to mayo this fact as widely known as possible. Moreover, a vernacular translation of the words "The address only to be written on this side," should be printed on the post-cards both in Urdu and Hindi characters. The editor complains that the village post-offices charge one anna instead of half an anna on the post-cards in question.

Post-office.

Akola, of the 26th October, complains that a letter containing a money order and two others containing post-age stamps, addressed to the proprietor, have been lost in transmission through the post, and asks the postal authorities to keep a strict check over their subordinates.

The same paper complains of delay in the distribution of the newspapers by rural messengers. A subscriber has written to the proprietor from Vashim that he does not regularly receive the Berar Samachar. Sometimes he receives two or three numbers together, and sometimes some numbers do not reach him at all.

#### LOCAL.

A correspondent of the Dabir-i-Hind, Allahabad, of the 1st November, complains that the boat-tised by boatmen at the men at the Rajghat ferry, Allahabad, extort one pice from each passenger in addition to the fixed tolls.

Circulation, 250 copies.

Circulation, 250 copies.

A correspondent of the Núr-ul-Anwar of the 1st NovemThe road situated in the ber complains that the road situated to the north of Bansi, Basti. to the north of Bansi, Basti, is in a very bad condition. Two rivers and two nalas are situated within five or six miles of Bansi. The passengers have to

Circulation, 450 copies.

pay heavy tolls to the boatmen at these places, and also run a great risk of being drowned, as the boats in which they cross the rivers are very small. The writer urges that the Government should improve the road, and construct bridges over the rivers and the nalas. The cost may be realised from the inhabitants of Basti.

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Circulation, 100 copies. The Nayyar-i-Azam, Moradadad, of the 27th October, states that Sayyid Imdad Ali, C.S.I., medicines and articles of the deputy collector of Moradabad, food at Moradabad. brought the complaint made by the

editor in a late issue about the sale of adulterated medicines by the native attars in the town (see page 819 of the Selections for the week ending the 18th October, 1879), to the notice of the magistrate, who ordered the municipal committee to make inquries into the truth of the complaint. The committee appointed Maulvi Jafar Ali to inquire into the matter with the aid of Sayyid Ahmad Hasan, the municipal hakim. They visited the shops of some attars in one day, and found some bad medicines, but in the meantime the other attars whose shops were visited on the second or third day removed The editor all adulterated medicines from their shops. expresses his gratitude to Sayyid Imdad Ali and the magistrate for the inquiries made by the latter through the municipal committee into the truth of his complaint, and urges that similar inquiries should be also made in Amroha, Sambhal, Chandausi, &c. Moreover, he complains that adulterated articles of food are also generally sold at Moradabad, and urges that the municipal committee should appoint a native doctor or hakim to check this evil, as has already been done by the Amritsar committee. The doctor should constantly visit the shops of traders who sell articles of food, and send those traders to the magistrate for punishment who are found in possession of adulterated articles. Instead of engaging the services of a new man for this work it will be better to make it over to the municipal hakim with a small increase to his pay.

The Suhail-i-Hind, Meerut, of the 28th October, in its local The prevalence of fever news column, complains of the prevalence of fever at Meerut, and states that 1,400 men perished from sickness in August in the district, and 20,000 in September last.

Circulation,

## MISCELLANEOUS.

The Mashir-i-Qaisar of the 23rd October (received on the The Anglicised School 26th idem) condemns the Anglicised of Musalmans. Musalmans as a kind of idolators, who worship as it were worldly greatness and have no faith in Islam. The writer specially refers to the Hon'ble Sayyid Ahmad Khan, who is generally regarded as their leader.

Circulation, 200 copies.

It appears from the Pramed Sindhu, Amraoti, of the 27th Literary Institute, October, that a literary institute, entitled. The Society for the Encouragement of Oratory or Speaking in Public, has existed at Amraoti, Berar, for the last six or seven years. It consists of a number of natives. It gives some prizes every year to the best native speakers. It will hold its sittings during the next Christmas holidays, and has offered four prizes to the competitors. The competitors will have to deliver speeches on either of the two following questions:—

Circulation, 150 copies.

- (1). What sanitary reforms are needed in the mode of living of the natives, and how many of them are practicable?
- (2). What classes of the poor are fit objects of one's charity?

Two prizes of Rs. 30 and Rs. 20 are offered for the first subject, and two of Rs. 25 and Rs. 15 for the second.

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ALLAHABAD,
The 6th November, 1879.

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